



Alaska PEOPLE

Bureau of Land Management

February/March

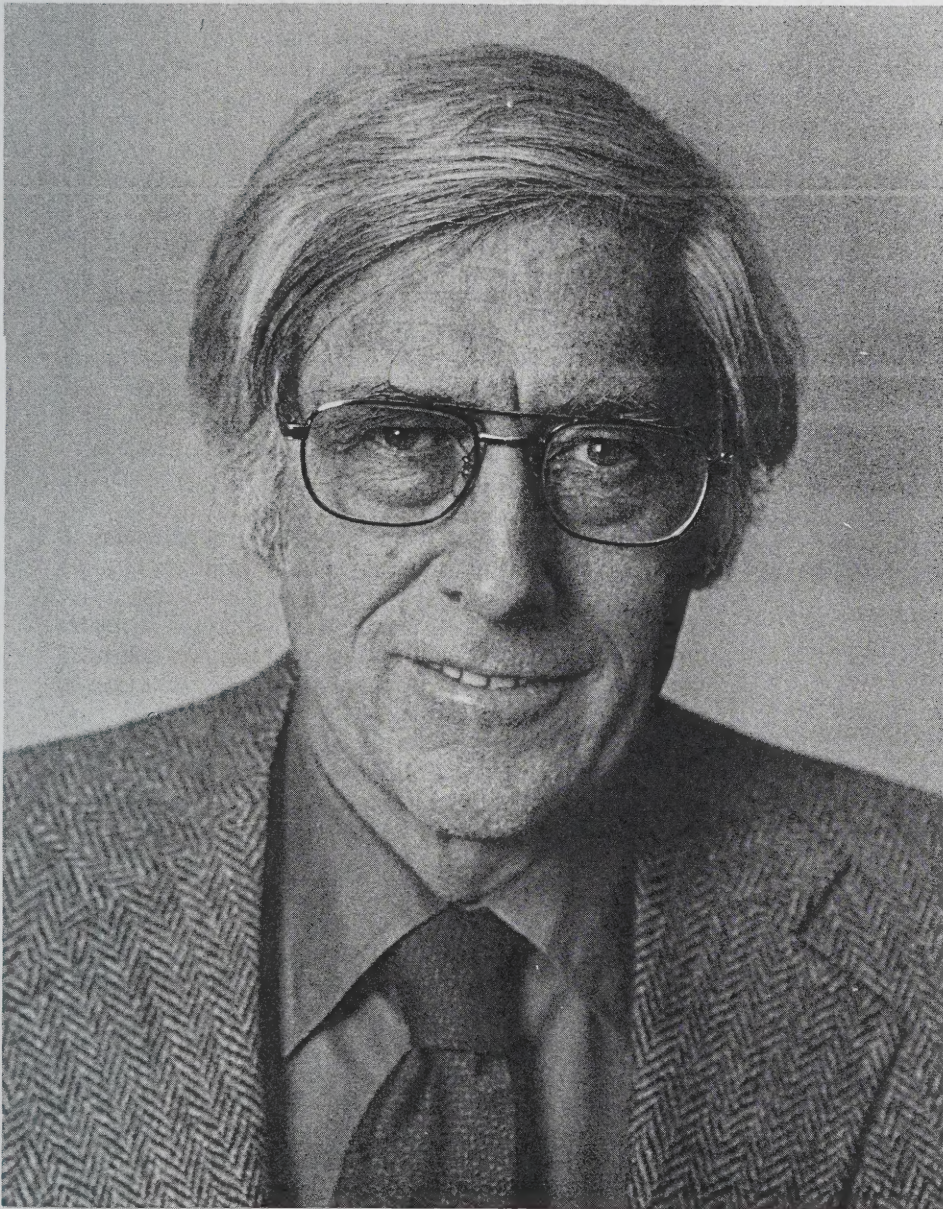
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In this Issue

- DISTRICT OFFICE NEWS
- FEEDBACK
- DEAR STATE DIRECTOR

Whitlock Is New Arizona State Director



BLM Alaska's intrepid Associate State Director, Clair Whitlock, left Alaska for the slightly wetter climate in Arizona. Whitlock, who's been Alaska's ASD since 1976, was appointed Arizona State Director. During a "round-up" of his friends and enemies, held at the Bayshore Clubhouse in Anchorage, Clair's co-workers gave him a sendoff he'll probably not soon forget. Gifts ranged from jade and burl clocks to a fishing pole designed especially for him by a fishing buddy.

Here's To Your Health

To many, February was a rough month for both body and morale. The extra pounds from Christmas seemed to take a life hold, skin went from dry to dryer and colds flourished. If your body and spirit have languished, start March anew, beginning at the Federal Health Unit.

Operating since November, the unit is a medical screening center serving most Federal Building employees, including all of BLM. According to full-time R.N. Sidne Hepler, the majority of requests since opening have involved weigh-ins and advice on diets but the unit offers a lot more. "It's a good place to take stock of yourself," she explains, "of lie down for a bit if you're feeling under par."

Free of charge, the unit has equipment and personnel to check vision and hearing, and can screen for diabetes, glaucoma, hypertension, TB, and gastrointestinal cancer. The staff can also administer allergy shots upon authorization from the attending physician, run pap tests and perform pelvic and breast exams on women who request them. The unit cannot perform pregnancy tests or write prescriptions.

Every Thursday from 12:30 to 4:30 Anchorage physician Dr. Blankinship is available for appointments. Although his practice is limited to screening and referral while at the unit, he can save employees sick leave and money from an unnecessary doctor's visit. If a cold or other complaint looks serious enough for further attention, Dr. Blankinship can then

Continued on Last Page



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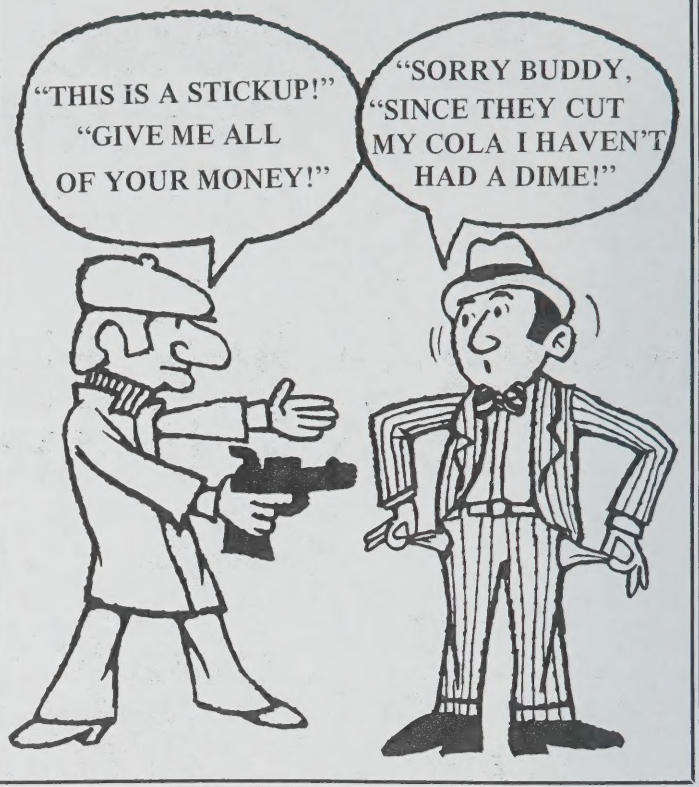
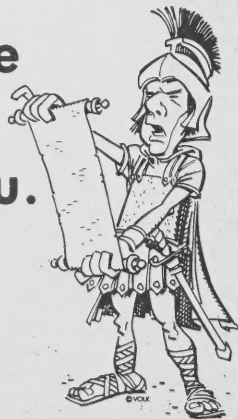


State Director Curt McVee, center, receives a plaque of appreciation from the Salvation Army's Lt. Gene Ragan, left. Looking on, from left to right are: Judy Albietz, Henryetta McCrady, Olivia Short, Ann Pederson, and Shirley Woodall.

Have News?

Alaska People
wants to
hear from you.

Contact your
Public Affairs
Office.



Dear State Director

A couple of questions have been asked by employees. Could you answer them for the Alaska People?

1. Can I use sick leave when my husband asks me to accompany him to the doctor?

No. The only time sick leave can be used in connection with an immediate family member is if it has been determined they have a contagious disease and require care and attendance.

2. If I had a break in government service and withdrew my federal retirement monies, what arrangements can be made to replace those retirement funds if I return to federal service?

To determine the exact amount, which will include interest, an SF-2803, Application To Make Deposit or Redeposit, should be submitted to the Bureau of Retirement, Insurance and Occupational Health, United States Office of Personnel Management, Washington, D.C. Amount may be repaid in a lump sum or installment payments of not less than \$25.00.

Additional information and assistance may be obtained by contacting the Personnel Office.

Everybody's Program- FWP

There are 335 women employed by the BLM in Alaska in many varied jobs. Each one has something to offer. The Federal Women's Program (FWP) is a group trying to help tap and utilize this valuable resource.

The FWP is one of the facets of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office in BLM. Although primarily concerned with improving women's opportunities in hiring and Promotion practices, the FWP recognizes and promotes these same goals for all federal employees—men and women.

The FWP was created in 1967 when President Johnson signed statutes prohibiting sex discrimination in federal employment. The FWP Council, comprised of representatives from each State Office Division, the Districts, and past FWP Managers, meets monthly to discuss issues of concern in the achievement of employment equality throughout BLM in Alaska, to develop monthly programs, and to assess subjects of interest to all employees.

Some future programs include a panel discussion provided by women in management within BLM, a Personnel Workshop to provide current information regarding SF-171's, upward mobility, and training; and a presentation by the Alaska Women's Resource Center. Each of you is invited to participate in these programs, to ask questions and make suggestions.

If you are interested in the FWP, stop by and talk to the Program Manager, Ayn Petty, or speak to your division council member. If you are interested in a particular topic, write it down and give it to one of the council members listed.

And remember, the FWP is not "For Women Particularly"—it is a program for everyone.

FDO Auction Makes Money For Needy

Each year, the Fairbanks District Office combines its annual Christmas party with a "white elephant auction." Those attending the party bring their contributions to the auction wrapped—or disguised—in Christmas wrapping paper. Each item is then auctioned off to the highest bidder.

The money raised from the auction is donated to Santa's Clearinghouse, a non-profit organization sponsored by the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. Mr. and Mrs. Jim O'Leary are the volunteer co-directors. In addition to monetary contributions, toys and clothing are also donated. The O'Learys and other volunteers repair the toys and wash and mend the clothing that is given. Food is purchased with the money that is contributed. The Clearinghouse volunteers work towards one goal—to ensure that needy families in the Fairbanks community have a happier Christmas. Any money not used at Christmas is placed in a savings account to be used to help families whose homes have been destroyed by fire.

"This year," stated Jeglum, "everyone was exceptionally gen-

erous. Eighty-three people attended the party and \$870.12 was raised." This total surpassed the 1978 total of \$825. The number of gifts brought to the auction is not limited to one per family and it is not mandatory that a gift be either brought or purchased.

The contributions to the auction vary from the wildest practical joke to a practical item that can be used in any home. Much the same as TV's Let's Make a Deal, you don't know what is in the package until you buy it.

During the 10 years the FDO has held Santa's Auction, some items can be seen returning year after year. A Mexican sombrero made several appearances until it was stolen from Dick Early's car before he could get home with it. Gifts can also be seen passing repeatedly through the hands of the auctioneer during the course of the same evening. If you just don't seem to have any possible place to put the "thing" you purchased, it is completely legitimate to send it back to the front of the room to be re-sold. After all, the more times an item sells, the more money is earned for the Clearinghouse.

ADO's Giving Tradition

It has been a Christmas tradition for the past six years for the Anchorage District Office to donate money to charity. This year, the district employees outdid themselves and collected 200 percent of their fundraising goal.

As a results of months of fundraising efforts, the office gifted the Chugiak Senior Citizens Home with \$1,000.

The spirit of giving appeared early in September when the first of seven division fundraisers was held. From then on competition among the divisions was fierce but friendly.

An auction, cookbook sale, an ice cream social, chili feed, spaghetti dinner and a pocketbread sandwich luncheon were among the money making events to which employees could contribute and still get something for their money.

Cookbooks, prepared by the Division of Administration, are still on sale for \$2.50. Any proceeds will go into the employee's social fund.

Health, continued from page 1

recommend a visit to the family doctor or he can provide a referral.

The unit is prepared to handle emergencies. Working with the Federal Building security guards, an ambulance or paramedic team can be alerted and to the building in minutes.

The unit is located on the second floor next to the East Wing elevators. Dr. Blankinship and the two full-time registered nurses, Sidne Hepler and Blanche Tinius, invite anyone interested to stop by. At the very least, be sure to keep the unit's telephone number handy, 271-5178.

Rabbits, Rabbits Everywhere

Throughout his many years as Chief of Administration at the Anchorage District Office, Don Mueller has had his share of dead rabbits.

Last month was no exception.

A handmade card found on his desk with two dead rabbits resting in boxes was the latest revelation that two women in the office were pregnant.

The card, made by the Personnel shop, was the only clue and they aren't saying who the mothers-to-

be are.

Everyone at the district including the district manager Richard Tindall seem absorbed with trying to solve this mystery.

The tradition of informing the division chief of expectant mothers by posting dead rabbit pictures in his office began several years ago.

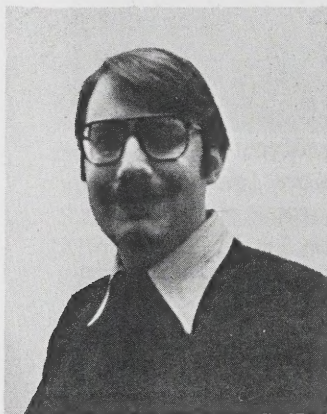
Meanwhile, Don, who thoroughly enjoys challenge, has been suspiciously eyeing the women and asking the most popular question of the week, "Are you expecting."



FEEDBACK

BLM'S
INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

QUESTION: Should "home leave" be limited to one trip only?



"I don't begrudge any people who have home leave but the inconvenience of traveling long distances and the use of home leave as an incentive to attract qualified people from the lower 48 is no longer applicable. Home leave should not be provided, there's no need."

Vic Paredes -- Service Officer for section of Support.



"If I qualified for it, I would selfishly want it. But honestly, considering the cost to the Government, employees should be limited to one home leave trip and any other trips should be paid by the employee."

Dede Domingos -- Chief Dispatcher for McGrath



"One time is fine. I think home leave should be done away with. The system we have is unfair. I believe in equal pay for equal work."

Carl Jeglum -- Chief, Division of Resources.



"Not necessarily to one trip, but it should be limited. There should be some point where home leave is null and void."

Jackie Holt -- Personnel Clerk.

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Send your Feedback questions to: State Office, Public Affairs (912).